

Testimony of Matthew Polansky in Support of Senate Bill 374 an Act Establishing Millwright Contractors and Journeymen Licensing.

Chairman Senator Doyle, Chairman Representative Baram, members of the General Law Committee, my name is, Matthew Polansky. I have been a resident of Connecticut all of my life.

My testimony today is to talk about how there is a lack of uniformity in qualified workers who do work classified as millwright work. We as union Millwrights go through extensive training in such subjects as OSHA safety, rigging of large machinery, power generation systems, public and waste water treatment facilities, material, food, and mail distribution conveyor systems, also public transportation maintenance facilities, to name a few. The work we perform is crucial to day to day operation of our lives. The power plant outage I worked on last month could be lighting this room today. We, as qualified millwrights, see Senate Bill 374 as paramount to creating uniformity in our trade to benefit all that live and work in CT. Our training starts with a state certified, four year apprenticeship. It is a combination of formal schooling and on-the-job experience working with journey millwrights. In the program, we are taught safety practices, rigging, and technical aspects of bolting, precision alignment of motor pump assemblies, optical leveling of machinery while holding tolerances to less than the thickness of a human hair (.0025). We also learn blueprint reading, welding and other aspects of a highly precise and technical trade. We have seen a rise of in and out-of-state contractors doing millwright work with people from such sources as labor brokers and an increase in classified ads for millwrights in the assembly of conveyors. I personally know this as fact, for I worked for a material handling Installation Company who after being frustrated with the lack competent workers from a labor broker called our local. With myself and two apprentices, half their normal call-out for workers, we laid out, assembled and placed all equipment within their specifications with no injuries and had the job completed five days ahead of schedule. We see the passage of Senate Bill 374 as a way to insure safe and quality work for the benefit of all who reside in CT. The work we perform has an end result of someone we may never meet operating it to make their living. We are asking for the passage of Senate Bill 374 at the expense of having to pay for licenses for work we are already qualified to do. Our apprentice program is state certified, why not take the next step and license journeymen and others who wish to perform this gratifying work we call millwrighting. We want to see the high standards we have set upheld by all who want to do this work for industry and the people of this great state who benefit from our due diligence as millwrights.

Thank you for your time. I would be happy to answer any questions you have.

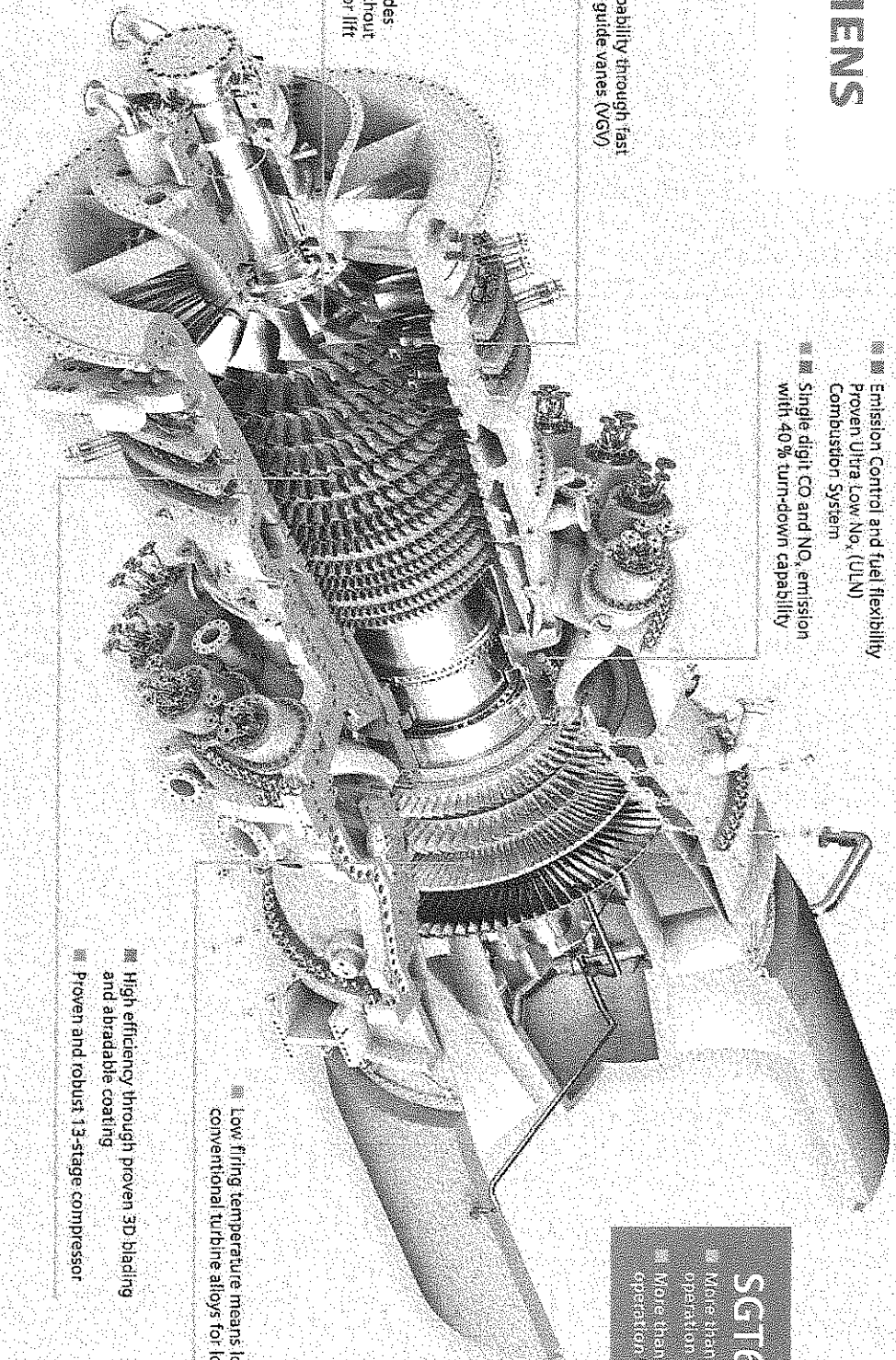
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